

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH OFFENDING

by

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submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of

MASTER OF ARTS

in the subject

CRIMINOLOGY

at the

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA

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November 2005

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I declare that

SIGNIFICANT FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO YOUTH OFFENDING is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

SIGNATURE
(Mrs N Maderthaner)

DATE

Acknowledgements

My sincere gratitude and appreciation to the following individuals and institutions:

Professor Joubert, for professional guidance, academic input and for the unwavering support and encouragement throughout this research project; especially when I was despondent. Everything you have done is greatly appreciated.

The Department of Correctional Services, for granting permission and access to the research participants to conduct this study.

The research participants, for their voluntary participation in this project.

To Neil Maderthaner and Marco Leita for their assistance in the scanning and printing of this research project.

To Pagan and Phillip for their support and motivation and for proofreading this project.

To Maureen Maderthaner and Nosizi Mafuyeka for taking care of the little ones while I was completing this dissertation.

To my husband Carl, your unconditional support and motivation allowed me to push forward when I was dejected. For taking care of the girls so that I could finish in time. And for your love.

This study is dedicated to my late father Rinaldo Leita. Spero che adesso sei orgogliosa di me.

Title of thesis: Significant factors contributing to youth offending

By: N Maderthaner

Degree: Master of Arts

Subject: Criminology

Supervisor: Prof S J Joubert

Summary

This study was conducted to determine the significant factors contributing to youth offending. A wide range of literature was consulted in order to identify risk factors in youth offending and to guide the researcher throughout this research project.

A qualitative research design, supported by descriptive and explanatory goals directed the methodology of this research project. Research tools utilised included case studies, in-depth interviews (aided by an interview guide). Research participants included young, coloured, incarcerated male offenders ranging between 16 and 23 years. The data was interpreted within the criminal event framework; suitable theoretical explanations for youth offending included social bonding and learning.

Significant factors that were found to play a role in youth offending were presented under the main themes of family, school and youths environment/community.